

This prevents for all time the specter of a Government shutdown. At the same time it permits the President and the Congress, if there is disagreement as to the extent of the budget, to continue to work to create a new budget. In the meantime, science goes on, research goes on, the Federal workers stay in place, no havoc is wreaked in the bureaucracy of Washington, although some people would say that might be a good thing. But the point is that we cannot allow the Government to shut down.

□ 1030

REPUBLICAN CHANGES TO MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, out west where I came from people used to worry about snake oil salesmen, but we pretty much got that under control. Now we have a new type of snake oil salesmen on the other side of the aisle.

I think we heard in prior discussions going on this morning that we are not going to be allowed to discuss their compassionate, wonderful, no pain changes to Medicare and Medicaid. We are just to trust them.

We are going to have 1 day of hearing. My fast math says that is about 1 minute per every 120 pages of changes they have in their bill. Oh, I am sure we will get it.

I want to tell my colleagues, as a Westerner who grew up with the tradition of snake oil salesmen, that we thought were behind us, beware. Beware. If their cuts are so painless, so harmless, so futuristic, so wonderful, why can we not have time to look at them? Why can we not air them in the sunshine? This should not be a fungus, this should be a bill.

REFORM IN THE SUGAR PROGRAM

(Mr. MILLER of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today the Committee on Agriculture begins markup of the 1995 farm bill. I am concerned that the Committee on Agriculture is trading real reform in some commodity programs in exchange for no reform in the sugar program.

The proposal put forth by the sugar growers, which the committee intends to adopt, is not real reform. It continues a big Government program that forces the American consumer to pay double the world price for sugar. The sugar program will continue to cost American consumers \$1.4 billion every year and continue to add \$90 million to our deficit every year.

The Republican Party is committed to putting every program except Social Security on the table, and we want to

have the right to debate the sugar program. Chairman ROBERTS is an honorable man and I trust he will keep his word to me and permit debate and vote on the sugar program.

Mr. Speaker, my bill to repeal the sugar program has 104 cosponsors, Democrats and Republicans. My bill to repeal the sugar program is real reform. The House has not considered the program since 1990. If we do not get a chance this year, it will be 2002 before we get a chance.

HEARINGS ON THE FUTURE OF MEDICARE

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, when Medicare was created in 1965, seniors came from all over the United States to testify before Congress as to how to meet the health care financing needs of our Nation's elderly. As we reconsider the future of Medicare for 37 million Americans, our seniors, indeed all Americans, deserve the right to a fair and open period of public comment on an issue of concern to every family in America.

Yet as the Republicans are about to embark on the most significant changes in the Medicare system, in Medicare's history, by proposing a \$270 billion cut in Medicare, the Republicans are blanking out America's voices. How unfortunate that the Republicans intend to hold only 1 day of hearings on a proposal that the American people, and especially American seniors, have yet to see. This is fundamentally unfair.

Mr. Speaker, a great Republican President hailed our democracy as a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Our democracy is not just about free elections of representatives, it is about citizen participation in a free and open process in the formulation of public policy. Given the magnitude of the \$270 billion cut, our citizens deserve better.

FEDERAL FUNDS FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS

(Mr. LONGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I understand that being attacked and engaging in political debate is part of the terrain one deals with when one assumes this type of office, but imagine my surprise when I obtained a copy of the tax return of the National Council of Senior Citizens, a group which is currently orchestrating a tax on me in my district, which shows that they received nearly \$73 million in Federal funds for the year ending June 30, 1994, almost 96 percent of their budget, from the Federal Government.

Furthermore, I obtained information that over the last two election cycles

they had contributed nearly \$417,000 exclusively to Democratic candidates. Not one red cent to a Republican candidate.

Again, it is a citizen's right to express their first amendment point of view, but is there a connection?

I also obtained a copy of the audit report of the National Council wherein they say in their report that the heavy reliance on governmental grants poses a potential danger to the long-term structure of the National Council. Absent such grants, the council would be unable to continue its current level of operations without seeking new revenue sources.

MORE HEARINGS NEEDED ON MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

(Mr. WISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, when I held a town meeting on Medicare last week in West Virginia, there was justifiable and understandable confusion about the details. Republicans want to cut \$270 billion over 7 years. Democrats say somewhere between \$90 and \$120 billion will be enough. The Republicans argue do they want to take the difference and give it to a tax cut?

Mr. Speaker, people have genuine questions, yet on something like this there ought to be more than 1 day of hearings, on programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, that affect 70 million Americans. Almost 700,000 West Virginians alone will have their health care somehow brought into question, whether senior citizens or Medicaid recipients. They deserve more than health stealth.

This is a B-2 bomber. I know why they like it on the other side. They like it because it is flying low on the radar screen with no details out there. They plopped the plan out on the table yesterday and they will mark it up today with no hearings on Medicaid, a program that affects 400,000 West Virginians. They want to do the same on Medicare with 300,000 West Virginians affected.

Mr. Speaker, surely the single greatest changes in America's health care plans deserve more than 1 day of hearings.

REPEAL OF GOVERNMENT SUGAR PROGRAM

(Mr. DAVIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the repeal of the Government sugar program. There is no plausible reason why our Government is involved with setting and controlling the price of sugar. It is Big Government at its worst. It is a sweet deal for a wealthy few. It promotes the destruction of one of our prized environmental landmarks—the Florida Everglades. VerDate 20-SEP-95